



Lincoln Home National Historic Site

Dear Friends,

Lincoln Home National Historic Site is beginning the development of a general management plan. Just as its name implies, this plan will provide a general framework to guide park management decisions over the next 15-20 years. This framework will be based in part on a vision of what people wish to see at Lincoln Home in the future. We need your help in describing that vision and developing the overall management philosophy that will enable us to achieve it.

In developing the vision for the park’s future, it is important first to review the park’s purpose, its national significance, and the potential for public appreciation and enjoyment of the distinctive resources that Lincoln Home National Historic Site interprets and preserves. We will analyze the park’s fundamental resources that are critical to achieving the park’s purpose and maintaining its significance. Later steps in the planning process will describe specific desirable resource conditions and visitor goals for the site’s future and will design alternate management strategies for achieving these goals. As part of our consultation process, we will meet with federal, state, and local government agencies and officials. We will also hold meetings and workshops to hear the ideas and concerns of the general public. Communication and cooperation with other government agencies, the local community, and the public will identify common interests and goals for the protection and preservation of this important national resource.

With your help, we can develop a plan that charts a sustainable future for Lincoln Home National Historic Site. Please share with us your thoughts, ideas, and vision for this historic resource. We will keep you informed throughout the planning process with periodic newsletters.

James A. Sanders
Superintendent
Lincoln Home National Historic Site

Purpose and Significance

The national historic site's purpose and significance provide a foundation upon which all planning and management decisions are based. Below are purpose and significance statements for Lincoln Home National Historic Site.

Purpose

The purpose statements clarify the reasons Lincoln Home National Historic Site was set aside as a unit of the national park system and provide the foundation for management and use of the monument. These statements are based on Lincoln Home’s establishing legislation and National Park Service policies.



The purpose of Lincoln Home National Historic Site is to

- *protect and preserve the Springfield home of Abraham Lincoln and the surrounding historic district as a meaningful setting for visitor understanding and appreciation*
- *interpret Abraham Lincoln and the significant impact his 17-year residency had on his emergence as a transcendent national and international figure for the benefit of present and future generations*

Significance and Fundamental Resources

Significance statements relate directly to the fundamental resources of the site and express the importance of the site to our national and cultural heritage. Fundamental resources such as the Lincoln Home are critical to achieving the park's purpose and maintaining its significance. These resources are the primary consideration in all park planning and decision making. Understanding the national historic site’s significance and fundamental resources will help managers make decisions that will preserve the values necessary to fulfill the site’s purpose.

Lincoln Home National Historic Site is **significant** as a unit of the national park system for the following reasons:

- *Abraham Lincoln and his family lived in this, the only house they ever owned, for the 17 years that were critical in his personal, professional, and political development.*
- *During these years Abraham Lincoln’s legal career evolved from a small town law practice to a high level of sophistication, developing a prosperous law practice, serving one term in the U.S. House of Representatives, running for the U.S. Senate, and becoming a major force in the new Republican party and its presidential nominee in 1860.*
- *The home was the setting for many significant events associated with Abraham Lincoln’s political career, including his preparation for the Lincoln-Douglas debates, his formal receiving of the Republican nomination for president, and the writing of at least part of his first inaugural address.*
- *In 1861 he left this house and Springfield, Illinois, to become the 16th president of the United States.*

Primary Interpretive Themes

Primary interpretive themes are ideas and concepts about Abraham Lincoln and his Springfield home. These themes are based on the park’s purpose and significance and provide the foundation for all exhibits, brochures, films, ranger talks, and tours that are critical to understanding and appreciating the national historic site's importance. The following **theme** statements will provide the basis for interpretation at the park:

- *Abraham Lincoln believed in the ideal that everyone in America should have the opportunity to improve his/her economic and social condition. Lincoln’s life was the embodiment of that ideal.*
- *Abraham Lincoln was a spouse, parent, and neighbor who experienced the same hopes, dreams, and challenges of life that are still experienced by many people.*
- *Many of Abraham Lincoln’s social and political beliefs concerning equality, freedom, and opportunity came into focus while he lived in Springfield. We as a nation strive to fulfill Lincoln’s legacy of national and individual ideals.*
- *People today – as they have since the time of Abraham Lincoln’s death – visit his home as a place to memorialize his life, seek meaning from his struggles and achievements, and find inspiration for their own lives.*



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Schedule

	Planning Activity	Dates	Public Involvement Opportunities
1	Set the stage for planning (we are at this stage): Reaffirm purpose and significance; determine issues and concerns	Fall 2005 to Winter 2005	The public is invited to attend meetings and offer ideas using the options described in the box to the right
2	Develop Preliminary Alternatives: Identify a range of reasonable alternatives for the park’s future, assess their effects, analyze public reactions, and select a preferred alternative	Winter 2005 to Fall 2006	Provide comments on the initial alternatives by using a response form. Attend public meetings and provide comments
3	Prepare and publish Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement: Prepare draft describing the management alternatives and impacts; distribute to the public	Fall 2006 to Fall 2007	Provide written comments on the draft document. Attend public meetings and provide comments.
4	Revise and publish Final General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement: Analyze comments, prepare responses to comments, revise draft document, distribute to the public	Fall 2007 to Fall 2008	
5	Implement the approved plan: Prepare and issue Record of Decision and implement plan as funding allows	Winter 2009 and beyond	Stay involved throughout the implementation of the approved plan. Let the park know what you think.

A Public Planning Effort

If you live in Springfield or the surrounding area, the planning team has scheduled two public open houses the week of November 7, 2005. We welcome your comments and suggestions and hope to see you at one of the meetings listed below.

Tuesday
November 8, 2005
7:00 PM

Lincoln Home NHS Visitor Center
426 South Seventh Street
Springfield, IL 62701-1905

Wednesday
November 9, 2005
7:00 PM

Lincoln Home NHS Visitor Center
426 South Seventh Street
Springfield, IL 62701-1905

How to be Involved

You can begin providing feedback by completing the enclosed comment form. Please let us know your thoughts and concerns regarding the issues and opportunities that should be addressed in the general management plan. Also please let us know if you would like to be included on the national historic site’s mailing list. After you have finished filling out the postage-paid form, just fold and tape it and drop it in a mailbox.

You can also submit your comments electronically online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectId=13436>. All newsletters will be posted on the website, along with a response form if you prefer to participate electronically.

You can also contact us with questions or comments any time at: Lincoln Home National Historic Site; 413 South Eighth Street; Springfield, IL. 62701-1905; 217-492-4241 x221.

